



The Bulletin

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- 143 YEARS AGO -

At a meeting of the Governors of the Hospital held at the Hospital on the 27th Day of August 1793.—

The following rules for the Government of the Hospital being read and approved—Ordered that one hundred Copies of the same be printed by Hugh Gaine and delivered to the Secretary who is directed to furnish each of the Governors with a Copy.

Firstly, that no Patients shall be admitted whose cases are judged incurable, "Lunaticks" excepted, nor any whose cases do not require the particular conveniences of an Hospital.

Secondly, that no Person having the small-pox, itch, or other infectious distempers, shall be admitted, until there are proper apartments for the reception of such as are afflicted with those diseases.

Thirdly, that Women having young Children, shall not be received (except when the Child and Mother are both Patients) or their Children are taken care of else where that the Hospital may not be burdened with the maintenance of such Children, nor the Patients disturbed with their noise.

Sixthly, that at least one Bed shall be provided for accidents that require immediate relief.

Tenthly, that no Patient presume to play at Cards, Dice or any other Game—within the Hospital, or to beg any where in the City of New York on pain of being discharged for irregularity.

Eleventhly, that such Patients as are able in the opinion of the Physicians and Surgeons shall assist in nursing others, washing and Ironing the Linen, washing and cleaning the Rooms, and such other services as the Matron or Steward shall require.

Thirteenthly, that the Physicians and Surgeons attending, report to the visiting Committee each visiting day, the State of such Patients as may be deemed incurable or in Condition to leave the Hospital, in Order that the said Committee may discharge them.

THE CORRECT NAME

Both the New York Hospital and Cornell University Medical College are in danger of being injured by popularization of the term "Cornell Medical Center". There is no such institution as "Cornell Medical Center" and under existing laws there is grave danger that a bequest to the "center" could not be collected either by the Hospital or by the College. Each institution should be referred to by its proper name.

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PORTRAITS

JOHN JONES, M. D.

The portrait of Dr. John Jones, painted by Alexander Laurie from an original by Chappel hangs in the southeast corner of the transept leading to the Governors room, in company with those of Dr. J. Keainy Rogers, Wright Post and Valentine Mott.

Dr. Jones was attending physician from 1774 until the time of his death in 1791.

As a matter of precedence, Doctor Jones' portrait should have been the subject of

a biographical sketch before any other, with the exception of Samuel Bard, because Bard, Middleton and Jones were the first to be appointed on the staff of the New York Hospital. Their names also appear as the "petitioners" in the Royal Charter granted by King George the Third.

While Samuel Bard inspired the founding of the Hospital as a result of his commencement address in 1869, it was John Jones who was sent abroad to Europe in order to study medical institutions and who drew up the plan known as the "Jones plan" which was later adopted in the construction of the first hospital building.

Jones had been much impressed by the unsanitary conditions of some of the European hospitals he had visited and their lack of ventilation. He spoke especially about some of those in Paris.

It was for this reason probably that he strove to provide abundant cross ventilation in his plans for the New York Hospital.

Jones was of Welsh extraction and his family belonged to the religious society of Friends. His grandfather, Dr. Edward Jones,

came to this country and settled near Philadelphia, marrying the daughter of Dr. Thomas Wynne, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House.

John Jones' father, Evan Jones, studied medicine and practiced for a time at Merion, Pennsylvania, and later moved to Long Island where he married the daughter of Mr. Stevenson. John Jones, the subject of our sketch, was born in Jamaica, Long Island, in 1729, the oldest of four sons. He received his early education at home and later at a private school in New York City.

"Having a natural instinct for the medical profession," both grandfathers and his father having been physicians, he began the study of medicine at the age of 18 under the preceptorship of the great Dr. Thomas Cadwallader of Philadelphia.

According to Thatcher whose biography is the most important source of information, "Jones indicated a special interest and fondness for anatomical research."

This probably led to his later proficiency in operative surgery.

At that time this country afforded no opportunity for formal education in medicine. None of the later institutions had as yet been founded. The only source of medical knowledge was to be found assisting some older physician in his practice.

When Jones had developed this source of knowledge to its fullest extent he followed the usual course of those days and visited Europe in order to improve himself in his profession.

He first went to London and attended the lectures of Dr. Hunter, Dr. M'Kenzie, and others who were then eminent in their respective branches. He attended the surgical clinics of St. Bartholomew's Hospital where Dr. Percival Pott was senior surgeon and at the height of his reputation. From London he went to France in May, 1757, and obtained the degree of Doctor in Medicine from the University of Rheims.

He then went to Paris where he remained until the following spring, attending the anatomical lectures of Monsieur M. Petit and attending the clinical rounds at the Hotel Dieu where Lecat and LeDran were then surgeons. He later spent some time at Leyden and finally visited Edinburgh before completing his medical tour.

On returning to this country he settled in New York City where his abilities soon procured him an extensive practice. He devoted much attention to operative surgery and was the first to perform the operation of lithotomy in this country.

His success in several cases of this kind made him distinguished as an operator throughout the middle and eastern states of America.

This was particularly true as the operation frequently attempted by others had not been successful, and Jones' skill proved that this was no longer the dangerous operation many had been made to believe.

In the year 1755, during the existence of a war between France and the colonies, a considerable alarm was occasioned by report of an intended attack of the enemy upon the frontiers of the state; and Dr. Jones, among others, entered as a volunteer surgeon to the troops raised upon the occasion. He served in this capacity with great distinction until the close of the campaign.

In the defeat of the French troops, the French commander, General Dieskau, was dangerously wounded and being taken prisoner, immediately placed himself under the care of Dr. Jones who attended him for a considerable time in New York.

When the medical school was founded, under the auspices of Kings College, Dr. Jones was appointed the first professor of surgery, "making known to his students the improving modes of practice lately adopted in Europe."

For a considerable part of his early life Dr. Jones had been afflicted by asthma and had a long struggle to overcome this disease. In spite of his own efforts and those of his colleagues, treatment had proved ineffectual.

He therefore made another voyage to Europe and sailed for London. Here, in a thick smoke and impure atmosphere, he experienced considerable alleviation of his complaint; and probably the permanent alteration in his health which he afterwards enjoyed, may in some measure be attributed to the effects of his residence in London.

During his sojourn in London he employed himself in collecting subscriptions for the New York Hospital.

He again had an opportunity of seeing his friend, Mr. Pott, at the head of his profession, and of renewing the intercourse which had previously commenced between them.

Unlike many who suppose all knowledge to become stationary at the time of their leaving college, he was still willing to be taught by those who had formerly been his instructors, and who, from the greater opportunities they enjoyed, would be enabled to afford him much information. He again attended the lectures of his old master, Dr. Hunter.

The following year he returned to New York, resuming his lectures and delivering several courses. In the autumn of the next year, 1775, he published his "Plain Remarks upon Wounds and Fractures" which he dedicated to his old preceptor, Dr. Cadwallader.

This was the first medical book published in America, and the only work ever published by Dr. Jones. This book was intended for the instruction and guidance of army physicians and was considered the most useful manual of surgical treatment that had been published up to that time.

As Thacher states, "No present could have been more acceptable to his country, and no gifts more opportunely made; many persons were chosen to act as surgeons, who from their few opportunities were but ill qualified for the office."

He had prepared another work for the press but it was prevented by the most base treachery from being given to the world. This was a complete collection of meteorological observations with an account of the reigning diseases during that period.

This is said to have been ready for the press at the time of his departure from New York and which he left, together with valuable manuscripts and anatomical preparations, in a place of apparent safety. "They would have remained in safety had not a brother professor, who became acquainted with the circumstance and knew the value of the deposit, perfidiously seized on it,

with a view of converting it to his own profit, by whom the whole were lost to the world and himself."

The business of teaching, as well as of private practice, was soon after interrupted by the commotions of his country and the actual development of the Revolution. War was declared and, the British army having taken possession of New York, Dr. Jones had previously left the city and retired to the country.

Although assured that he would not be disturbed on account of his political principles if he remained in the city, he refused to consider the urgent requests of his friends among the loyalists to return to New York.

He conceived it criminal even to be a silent spectator of a contest carried on against a country that gave him birth, and therefore accepted a seat in the senate of New York for the southern district.

When he could no longer be useful in this capacity, he entered the medical department of the army where he rendered important service to his suffering fellow soldiers, by healing the wounds which they received in the cause of liberty.

However, his delicate constitution did not permit him to continue in military service and made it necessary for him to return again to private practice.

On the evacuation of Philadelphia in 1778 he went there and finding, during his stay, a relative freedom from asthma he determined to take up his residence in that city. In 1780 he moved to Philadelphia permanently.

On the resignation of Dr. John Redman, as one of the physicians of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Dr. Jones was elected to fill the vacancy, and was continued in office until the time of his death.

This marks the date of his virtual separation from the New York Hospital, although he retained the appointment until 1791. His further activities are identified almost entirely with Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Hospital, and the Humane Society of which he was the first president.

Later on he was also instrumental in establishing a dispensary in connection with the Pennsylvania Hospital, for the reason that because of economic stress the Hospital found it necessary to confine within narrower limits its philanthropic service to "in-patients."

Dr. Jones was an intimate friend and also a physician of Benjamin Franklin, and attended him during his last illness.

He was remembered by Benjamin Franklin in his will. Dr. Jones wrote a most interesting detailed account of the last illness of his illustrious patient, which was incorporated in Franklin's biography.

In the summer of 1790, when New York City was still the capital of the United

States, President Washington was taken seriously ill and other assistance besides that of his attending physician became necessary.

An express was sent to Dr. Jones, requesting him to come to New York, and although he was much engaged in private practice he lost no time in flying at the call of a man in whose welfare so many millions of free-men were interested.

Upon his arrival at New York he found that the disease from being of an inflammatory nature, had terminated in an alarming state of debility, and violent spasmodic difficulty of breathing, which threatened the greatest danger.

Dr. Thacher is unacquainted with the particular circumstances, but the fact is that within a few hours after the first visit a manifest alteration for the better was perceived, and in a few days the President was out of danger. The importance of the service rendered was not forgotten.

On the removal of the federal government to Philadelphia, the President chose him as family physician, and he continued in that honorable station until the time of his death.

Shortly after that, Dr. Jones' career was put to a stop by his untimely death.

In June, 1791, he was severely fatigued after a horseback ride the evening of the same day he paid a visit to the President of the United States. It had been a very sultry day. Towards evening the air became cool. Being dressed in a light manner, he was not prepared for this sudden change. He visited several patients who required his attendance, before his return home.

This was followed by an acute illness to which he succumbed in the course of the next five or six days, in the sixty-third year of his life.

"His remains were deposited in the Friends' burial ground, and his funeral was conducted in a plain manner and strictly suitable to the regulations of that religious society. It was attended by the members of the Philosophical Society, his medical brethren of the college, and those numerous citizens who knew his worth, and will long regret his death."

Thacher describes Dr. Jones as a person of middle size with moderate but well formed chest, and thin habit. His eye was quick and penetrating, his countenance cheerful but sedate, and his whole deportment was easy, though polite. He was said to have been free and easy of access. Owing his fame and reputation neither to powerful friends or connections, nor to any lucky circumstances, he continued to be dependent alone on his own abilities for the interest and support in the profession.

There was, notwithstanding, such a gravity of appearance and dignity of manners, as never failed to command respect and esteem.

These qualities of sturdy individualism are illustrated by circumstances which occurred early in his career in New York City. At that time some of the physicians entered into a resolution to distinguish themselves from the rest of their fellow citizens by a particular mode of wearing their hair; and among the rest, it was proposed to Dr. Jones, but instead of receiving his assent, the principle of it was strongly opposed by him.

Persuaded of the dignity of the medical character in itself, he did not see the need of calling in artificial aid to increase it, and therefore refused to consent to the plan, and insisted upon the great impropriety of establishing any external mark to distinguish them from the rest of mankind.

He declared at the same time that he considered that, and every similar means to impose upon the weakness or credulity of others, as unworthy the members of a liberal profession, and as intended to enforce that attention and respect which their own conduct and abilities should always command.

While the rest of the practitioners, therefore, were seen strutting about in their new fashioned "bob," Dr. Jones could not be "distinguished from any well bred gentleman of another profession."

In consequence of Dr. Jones' refusal to adopt this plan, an agreement was made not to consult with him. This agreement was of little avail. So great was his reputation among the people in general that in one instance the physician who attempted to carry out the boycott, was himself dismissed.

A few such instances effectually operated to expose the medical coterie to general ridicule and the object of the association was entirely defeated. Thereafter, the members were under the necessity of wearing their hair like the rest of their fellow citizens.

The same principle which actuated Dr. Jones in the above circumstance, actuated him in matters of greater importance.

Pure in his principles as a republican, he considered titles as the pageantry of coxcombs, and like the royal stamp set upon false coin; by covering much base metal, instead of creating respect, they serve to detract from the little honor to which their possessors might otherwise be entitled.

As a surgeon, Dr. Jones stood at the head of the profession in this country; and he may be deservedly considered as the chief instrument in effecting the remarkable revolution in that branch of healing art.

He was the first to return from his European studies with a conviction that surgery should be developed as a separate branch of medicine. His success in the operation of lithotomy has been referred to, and none

have been said to equal him in dexterity in carrying out this procedure.

From long practice he had acquired a facility in operating to which few surgeons have arrived. One of his contemporaries has testified, "I have seldom known him longer than three minutes in lithotomy, and he has sometimes finished the whole in one minute and a half!"

He also gained considerable reputation as an obstetrician and in this difficult and important branch he was eminently successful.

He paid particular attention to this subject during his studies in Europe and availed himself of every opportunity to become qualified in its practice, both by attending various hospitals and also through the private practice of different professors.

In the lectures which he himself delivered at Kings College he dwelt much on this subject, and he may justly be considered as the first who gave the medical students of New York State a proper and rational notion of the art.

He has seldom had recourse to artificial aids, but in case of necessity he never failed to employ them. His becoming modesty and delicacy of deportment combined in helping to win the esteem of his patients.

Dr. Jones likewise earned distinction as a physician. Though educated in the school of Boerhave, he never professed an implicit faith in that, or any other system.

Like every judicious physician he was guided by sound general principles, varying his practice with the varying circumstances of the case.

The success of his practice was the best proof of the truth of his principles, and of the judgment which directed their application. He lamented the imperfection of the science, and never refused the adoption of any rational means of increasing its certainty, or the use of any remedy because it was new, which had been sanctioned by experience and had reason and probability to recommend it.

On the other hand, the caution with which he gave way to many much famed antidotes whose short lived reputation proved their merit, marked him the safe and prudent practitioner.

Thacher mentions one particular trait in the character of Dr. Jones which he feels should be mentioned; namely, that he made it a rule never to give advice, and seldom gave it, unless he had assurance that it was asked in sincerity.

In such cases if he thought himself capable of informing, he seldom scrupled to give it, observing, however, never to make use of any persuasion to induce it to be followed, but leaving the party to decide for himself.

Continued in next issue

THE TWO OLDEST HOSPITALS IN THE UNITED STATES

The question was recently discussed around the lunch table by members of our Professional Staff, as to which were the oldest hospitals in the United States. This question came up in connection with the memorial meeting under the auspices of the New York City Department of Hospitals.

The following inscription written by Benjamin Franklin on the corner stone of the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, would establish proof that this hospital is the oldest within the present boundaries of the United States, that has enjoyed a continued existence to the present time.

"IN THE YEAR OF CHRIST
MDCCLV
GEORGE THE SECOND HAPPILY
REIGNING
(FOR HE SOUGHT THE HAPPINESS
OF HIS PEOPLE)
PHILADELPHIA FLOURISHING
(FOR ITS INHABITANTS WERE
PUBLIC SPIRITED)
THIS BUILDING
BY THE BOUNTY OF THE
GOVERNMENT
AND OF MANY PRIVATE PERSONS
WAS PIOUSLY FOUNDED
FOR THE RELIEF OF THE SICK
AND MISERABLE
MAY THE GOD OF MERCIES
BLESS THE UNDERTAKING"

It is interesting that both in Philadelphia and in New York the claim to be the oldest hospital has been put forth by two institutions, whose origin was entirely similar and whose further development has been parallel.

The following extract was taken from Packard's History of Medicine in the United States:

"The claim that the Philadelphia (General) Hospital is the oldest hospital in the United States is based on a total misapprehension.

It has been claimed that this institution was founded in 1732; but if one refers to the original documents he will find that the institution founded in that year is always referred to as the *poor house*, and that the only sense in which the term hospital can be applied to it is that it possessed an infirmary for such of the poor as were insane or required more careful medical treatment than could be given them if in the same quarters with the other paupers."

The best proof, however, exists in the petition which was presented to the Assembly of Pennsylvania on January 23, 1751, and which led to the founding of the Pennsylvania Hospital, i. e. the need of a hospital would predicate its absence at that time.

Packard considers the most conclusive proof is to be found in Morton's History of the Pennsylvania Hospital (see Morton, *ibid*, 1905). To his mind it settles the question beyond cavil, that the Philadelphia Alms House was not properly speaking, at that time of its existence, a hospital and consequently the Pennsylvania Hospital is justly entitled to be termed the oldest hospital in the United States.

The facts above referred to were as follows. At an early date (July 22, 1781) the City Almshouse and House of Unemployment, requested that their sick paupers may be occasionally admitted into the (Pennsylvania) hospital as pay patients at the rate of a "*Spanish Milled Dollar*," per week. The narrative contains fuller discussion as to rates from time to time, indicating that this relationship was continued.

This effectually disposes of the claim according to Morton, that what we now know as the Philadelphia Hospital or Blockley Alms House is the oldest hospital in the United States.

As far as New York City is concerned, both the addresses of Dr. Peter Middleton and that of Dr. Samuel Bard, stressing the need of a hospital in New York at that time, i. e. 1769, are proof that in their minds, no hospital actually did exist at that date.

"The claim of Dr. Robert J. Carlisle, that Bellevue Hospital is the oldest hospital in the United States is based on a false assumption, as in the case of the Philadelphia General Hospital (Blockley). Both Bellevue and the Philadelphia Hospital having been started as almshouses for the relief of the poor of their respective cities and not as hospitals for the care of the sick and injured."

In 1735 there was built on land where the City Hall now stands, the "*Publick Work House and House of Correction of the City of New York*." As Carlisle says there was a room especially set apart as the infirmary and to be used for no other purpose whatever. Dr. John Van Buren was appointed as physician of the institution. It is hard to twist such a statement according to Packard into the assertion that Bellevue was founded as a hospital in the modern sense of the term.

In those days many well regulated communities, he goes on to say, provided such a "workhouse" or "poorhouse" for their paupers and as the majority of the inmates were old, broken down and ailing, they likewise provided medical care for them, but such provision was made solely for the inmates, not to provide for cases of illness or injury occurring in the community at large.

In 1794 the City leased a portion of the *Kip* farm to use as a pest house during the ensuing year. In 1795 the disease (yel-

low fever probably) reappeared with great virulence. The place or estate rented by the city had been called "Belle Vue" and the name has remained.

In 1799 the city finally purchased the farm. It was not used, however, until the epidemic of 1813.

In 1811 the city purchased about six more acres of the "*Kips Bay*" and to this site the "Almshouse of the City" of New York was moved in 1816.

In 1825 a "Fever Hospital" was opened on some additional land purchased from the "Ross Hill" estate. In 1819 and again in 1822 yellow fever visited the city and the pest house was in use. Epidemics of typhus fever occurred in 1818, 1825 and 1827.

In 1825 after an investigation by a special committee, Dr. Isaac Wood was appointed resident physician and radical changes were ordered.

The nurses in the hospital were obtained from among the prisoners who were confined in the penal part of the institution. In 1832 during the cholera epidemic (see "Bulletin"—June 1936, Life of Dr. Alexander H. Stevens), Bellevue received 2000 patients of whom 600 died.

Dr. Wood suffered from the disease and though he recovered, he was not well enough to continue his strenuous duties and therefore resigned in 1833. Wood subsequently became consulting physician to Bellevue. In 1850 he was elected President of the New York Academy of Medicine.

Bellevue now passed through a long and disgraceful period in her history. "It became a political pork barrel and correspondingly a disgrace to the city." "Under Wood it first began to be known as Bellevue Hospital."

In 1836 the prison portion was removed to Blackwell's Island, which had been purchased by the city in 1828. A separate building was erected on the South end of Blackwell's Island (now the Nurses Home of the City Hospital) for the small pox patients.

With the collaboration of Dr. James McDonald of the old Bloomingdale Hospital (Asylum) plans were drawn for the insane patients who were removed from Bellevue Hospital in 1839. Medical care of patients on Blackwell's Island remained in the hands of the Bellevue Medical Staff.

In the year 1849 a Board of 10 governors of the Almshouse Department was appointed. These were succeeded in 1860 by "A Board of Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction."

As the purpose of this brief article was simply to discuss the early background and origin, we have not continued further the history of either Bellevue Hospital or the Philadelphia General Hospital.

W. C. K.